

Utah Waterfowl Association

Question 1. What are your organizations interest and activities on Great Salt Lake?

Response: The Utah Waterfowl Association was organized to represent the interests of Utah's waterfowl hunters. The stated purposes of the organization are as follows:

- (a) To function as a nonprofit corporation under the Utah Nonprofit Corporation and Co-operative Association Act;
- (b) To promote and preserve Utah's waterfowl, waterfowl habitat and waterfowling, which has traditionally provided the basis for much of the enhancement and protection of waterfowl and waterfowl habitat;
- (c) To promote the education and better understanding of the importance of the state's waterfowl, the wetland resources upon which waterfowl depends, and the heritage of waterfowl hunting in the state of Utah; and
- (d) To provide technical expertise and other comment and input regarding regulatory changes that affect Utah's waterfowl, habitat and waterfowl hunting.

Question 2. What permits or approvals do you need and from whom?

Response: No permits or approvals are needed. However, the organization is run by a seven member board of directors.

3. What pressures on the lake affect your organization?

Response: Waterfowl habitat and the quality of waterfowl hunting experiences on the lake and within the wetland areas that surround the lake are dependant upon the overall health of the lake's ecosystem. The primary pressures that are or will have a major impact to waterfowl habitat and waterfowl hunting are urbanization approaching traditional waterfowl hunting areas and pressure to develop lands that have historically been used to support waterfowl and the quantity and quality of water entering the lake. The reported levels of mercury are known to have documented impacts to humans. Lesser known are the effects of mercury and other toxins to the thousands of waterfowl that depend on the lake during annual migrations. In addition, the declining lake level and other pollutants entering into the lake are likely having significant and as yet unknown consequences to waterfowl habitat. Invasive plant and animal species also have a major impact to waterfowl in and around the lake.

4. Are there opportunities for improvement with regards to agency management or impacts to the resource?

Response: Certainly. Water quality standards and water appropriation standards and guidelines stand in critical need of improvement. Coordination between state and local governments for uses in and around the lake need to be developed to ensure preservation of not only the sovereign boundaries of the lake but also areas surrounding the lake to ensure an adequate buffer. The Utah Waterfowl Association commends the Division of Wildlife Resources for its support of waterfowl and particularly its efforts to eradicate hundreds of acres of phragmites in and around the lake. Coordinated efforts with other agencies should be strengthened.